

Alsea Falls Recreation Site

Bureau of Land Management

Salem District - Oregon



Location:

From Corvallis, take Highway 99W south 15 miles. Turn west on County Road #45120 and drive five miles to Alpine Junction. Continue along the South Fork Alsea Access Road (Back Country Byway) nine miles to Alsea Falls Campground.

From the town of Alsea drive south on State Highway 201 to County Road C-03-48200 which then connects to the South Fork Alsea Access Road. (see map)

Facilities:

Fee Camping: 16 camp sites
Picnicking: 22 sites

Drinking water: Drinking water is available in both the campground and the picnic area

Grills and fireplaces: Wood and charcoal

Restroom facilities: Vault toilets

Open: Mid-May through September

Campground fees: \$10.00 per unit/night
extra vehicle \$5.00

For further information:

Salem District Office
Bureau of Land Management
1717 Fabry Road SE
Salem, Oregon 97306

BLM/OR/WA/GI-04/023+4800



Salem District

BLM

Welcome to Alsea Falls Recreation Site

The Bureau of Land Management's Alsea Falls Recreation Site is located in the Oregon Coast Range, 13 miles west of Monroe in Benton County. The south fork of the Alsea River flows through the park, cascading down Alsea Falls.

The beautiful surroundings of Alsea Falls can be enjoyed by exploring the trails that wander through the park.

On a warm day, Alsea Falls offers cool relief along the river and a popular picnic spot. During the winter months, the Alsea River provides excellent salmon and steelhead fishing.

Alsea Falls Back Country Byway:

Alsea Falls Recreation Site is located along a BLM National Back Country Byway. Forests in all stages of growth line the road to the park. Old-growth Douglas-fir and western red cedar forests can be seen on nearby ridges, while 40-year-old Douglas-fir trees and vine maple provide a pleasant atmosphere at the recreation site. Newly planted seedlings in the harvest areas help provide forests for future generations.

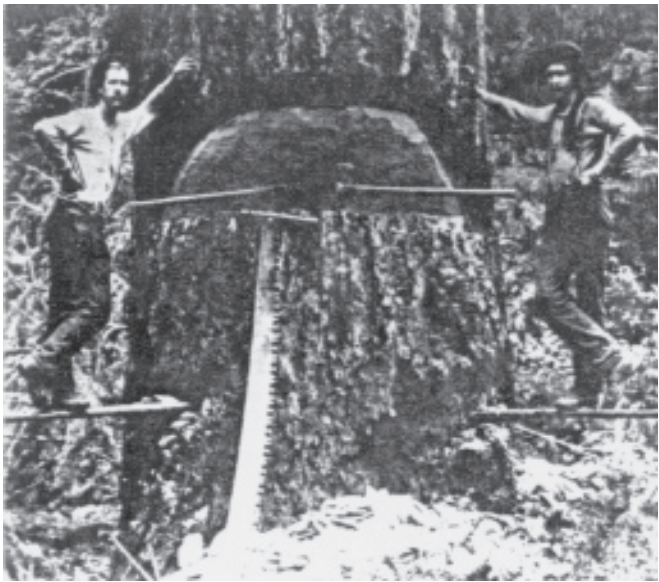
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Wildlife:

A forest, like any natural environment, has many working parts; Each part depends upon the other. The forest provides a home for a variety of animals. Older trees are home to woodpeckers, owls, hawks, squirrels and other animals. Deer and elk prefer to graze in the recently replanted open areas where there are more grasses and shrubs. Beaver work along the banks of the south fork of the Alsea River.





Early loggers cut notches in a tree several feet above the ground, then inserted boards called “spring boards” to stand on while sawing down the tree.

History:

The Alsea Area was named after its original inhabitants, the Alsi’ Indians. In the early 1850s, settlers from the Willamette Valley began migrating to the Alsea Valley to take up Donation Land Claims. These early settlers cleared the land for farming and harvested timber. The large old stumps seen throughout the park are evidence of a time when it may have taken two men standing on “spring boards,” all day to fall one tree. The spring board notches are still visible on stumps along the hiking trails. The Alsea Falls area was logged most recently in 1945, some of the land was planted while other areas were left for natural regeneration.

Attractions:

The state flower, the Oregon Grape, can be found throughout the park and along the Alsea Back Country Byway. The park is comprised of a wide variety of trees, shrub and wildflowers. In early May, Pacific dogwoods bloom along the road to the park followed by Oregon iris, native berries, foxglove and honeysuckle. The South Fork Alsea River offers painters and photographers endless opportunities to capture the natural beauty of the falls and the surrounding area. Across the river, the trail passes through McBee Park (private campground) and continues on to Green Peak Falls.

